THE NEWS OF

HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

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Twenty-five years ago, on March 7, 1995 Magyar Posta issued this stamp to mark the 150th anniversary of steamship service on the Tisza River.

Society for Hungarian Philately

SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY
505 S. 35th Street
Tacoma, WA 98418 USA

Established 1969

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American Philatelic Society Affiliate #34

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The Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) is a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut and is devoted to the study of every aspect of Hungarian philately. SHP publishes a quarterly newsletter in March, June, September, and December. Manuscripts for publication may be sent to the Society's address or to the Editor's e-mail address listed above. The articles published herein represent the opinions of the individual authors and the content is not to be construed as official policy of this Society or any of its officers. All publication rights are reserved for SHP. Articles from this journal may be reprinted only with the written permission of the Editor and the authors. Back issues of the newsletter may be purchased for $4.00, if available, plus postage.

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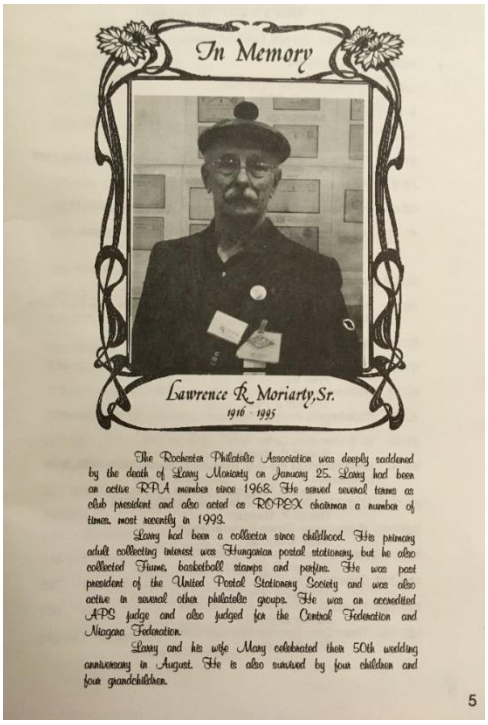
THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by **Alan Bauer**

Hello everyone, in this issue of **The News**, I'd like to share with you the story of a Hungarian collector, who was not a member of the SHP, but whose daughter reached out to us to donate his Hungarian collection. Lawrence Moriarty was an avid stamp collector until his death in January 1995. While he was not Hungarian, he had started collecting Hungarian stamps as a kid in Brooklyn, New York because one of the customers on his paper route paid him in Hungarian Stamps. He was an avid stamp collector all his life and was active in the Rochester NY stamp club. After moving to Erie, Pennsylvania in 1958, he also joined the Hungarian-American Stamp Club in Cleveland, Ohio, which was one of the predecessor organizations to the SHP.


In Memory

Lawrence R. Moriarty, Sr.
1916 - 1995

The Rochester Philatelic Association was deeply saddened by the death of Larry Moriarty on January 25. Larry had been an active RPA member since 1968. He served several terms as club president and also acted as ROPEX chairman a number of times, most recently in 1992.

Larry had been a collector since childhood. His primary adult collecting interest was Hungarian postal stationary, but he also collected Fiume, basketball stamps and perfins. He was past president of the United Postal Stationary Society and was also active in several other philatelic groups. He was an accredited APS judge and also judged for the Central Federation and Niagara Federation.

Larry and his wife Mary celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August. He is also survived by four children and four grandchildren.

5

His daughter, Gina, donated to the SHP several three-ring binders of Hungarian stamps and postal stationery. The subject of this collection is mainly the bridges over the Danube. There are also some maps and a travel book about Budapest that Lawrence must have used for reference. Lawrence spent a lot of time trying to get kids and new collectors interested in stamp collecting so I am sure he would be smiling if his stamps were able to help in that regard! This brings me to our meeting and anniversary celebration in Hartford. I'll bring the Moriarty collection albums to Hartford for all to see. I think you'll find them quite interesting. Whether or not you've been to Budapest, it's like having a virtual tour of the city.

We have a restaurant for our dinner on Friday (8/21); it's the Baltic Restaurant and specializes in eastern European cuisine. They will have a private room for us with Hungarian and regional specialties to partake in. We have 22 confirmed attendees and another eight who are tentative. Hopefully, we'll have some more new members at the show who will join us for a special dinner and celebration of our 50th Anniversary. If you're coming and haven't let me know yet, please do so and I'll put you on the list. The dates are August 20 – 23, 2020 and the location is the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. If you need any help with arrangements, let me know. **I look forward to seeing you there!!!**

One final item that I'd like to bring your attention is a notice in this issue of **The News** about the creation of a Yugoslav Study Group. It is being started and moderated by Thomas Healey. Please take a look at the notice and contact Tom to sign up if that's an area that interests you.

Thanks for your input and as always, ……..Happy stamping!

❋

WELCOME & KUDOS

A warm welcome to our newest members: Michael Bell of Luray, Virginia, Leonel Enriquez of Melbourne, Florida and Dr. James Koncz of Duncansville, Pennsylvania.

We also have a bumper crop of new Life Members this year: Alan Bauer, our illustrious President; fellow Canadian George Buza, Jim Gaul, our Auctioneer; George Preininger, Thomas Rehkop, Paul Richter; and Frank Schubert. Thank you, gentlemen for your support over the last three decades!

❋

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

by **Wes Learned**

SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY				
Treasurer's Report - Year Ending December 31, 2019				
submitted by Wes Learned, Treasurer				
Beginning Balance 1-1-2019	$1,826.73		Expenses:	
(Checking - First Wyoming Bank)			Newsletter (4 issues):	
			Printing	$1,967.63
Income:			Postage	$1,148.75
Auction Deposits	$1,045.90		Envelopes	$311.85
			Supplies	$0.00
Donations:			Mileage to Ottawa	$77.56
Regular	$125.00		Management Fees	$3.10
Matching funds challenge	$500.00			
Match	$500.00		Other Expenses:	
			Postage (Board)	$94.90
Sales:			Scott Catalog Ad	$0.00
Stamp Sale	$0.00		State of CT Corp. Filing Fee	$50.00
Bound Editions	$215.00		Web Maintenance	$561.40
News & Website Ads	$100.00		APS Show Expense	$286.93
Dues	$1,932.31		Total Expenses	$4,502.12
Interest Earned (added to CD's)			Ending Balances 12/31/19:	
(checking)	$0.00		First Wyoming Checking	$1,742.82
(1 yr. CD)**	$48.12		First Wyoming CD's (91 day)	$1,001.99
(91 Day CD's)**	$1.99		First Wyoming CD 1 Yr	$8,048.12
Total Income:	$4,418.21		Auction Account	$2,186.75
CD Redemptions	$0.00			
Beginning Balance plus Deposits	$6,244.94		Total Assets	$12,979.68

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THE AUCTIONEER'S REPORT

by **Jim Gaul**

2019 Year End Report					
	2019A	2019B	2019C	2019D	Totals
No. of lots listed	115	121	121	79	436
Sold	66	79	68	31	244
No. of Bidders	12	19	11	8	
Consignors	6	6	6	5	
Amount Sold	$949.50	$1,265.00	$894.00	$332.00	$3,440.50
Comm. And Donated	$257.40	$713.80	$596.50	$183.90	$1,751.60
Looking over the figures above you can see an increase in the number of lots listed					
from 395 last year. Lots sold were down slightly from 254 last year. However,					
consignments were up and donations were much larger. A banner year except for the					
last quarter. An increase in bidders and the number of lots listed should bring a					
better year ahead!					

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WANTED

Any and all material related to the Hungarian Gendarmerie (Csendőrség) such as mailing labels, picture post cards, post cards, covers, cancellations, documents, photos, gendarmerie addressed to or from, etc.

Call or write Zoltan Korossy, 11227 Woodson Ave., Kensington, Md. 20895.
Tel: 301-946-2414, Email; zoltanog@gmail.com.

THE WEBMASTER'S REPORT

by **Wally Green**

Introduction

We have a candidate in training to take over the job of Webmaster. If all goes well this will be my penultimate report. I'll fill everyone in next report. I am excited to be a member of this organization as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary. Hopefully, the next 50 years will be as good or better than the last.

It's been a pretty quiet 3 months as far as other Webmaster duties are concerned. About the only things that were updated are the addition of the latest "News" and the first auction of 2020. Please let me know if there is something you'd like to see on the website that isn't currently there. I'd really like to make this resource more useful to our members.

Website Usage

Our statistics show we had about 5% more "hits" on the Website in the last 90 days compared to the previous 90-day period. The trend to longer sessions has continued with the average session time increasing by about 40%. This tells me that the members are getting more from the website.

Thank you for your support.

❋

IN MEMORIAM: ALOYSIUS BAUER

by **Alan Bauer**

In response to the letters I sent out inviting early members of the SHP to our 50th Anniversary celebrations, Al Bauer's daughter, Sue Terracciano contacted me to say that her father had passed away on July 26, 2018. Al Bauer was one of the original six members who came up with the idea of organizing the SHP around Vic Berecz's dining room table in Fairfield, Connecticut in the fall of 1969. He was part of the founding of the Society in February 1970 and was the Society's first President. I think it is fair to say that Al Bauer is one of the main reasons that this Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

Al Bauer was born in November 1933 in Érd, Hungary. In 1956, he was a student at the Technical University in Budapest when he fled to the United States to escape the Russian invasion that crushed the Hungarian revolution against Communism. Like so many other Hungarian refugees, he settled in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He later moved to Fairfield, Connecticut, where there was also a large Hungarian community. Here, he was active in St. Emery's Church and in the Fairfield Philatelic Society, which brought the founding members of the SHP together. Thank you, Al.

The original SHP Executive in 1970 (Left to Right): Aloysius Bauer (President), Vic Berecz, Géza Bodnár, Dennis Rich. (Front): Bill Domonkos and Jeannette Erhard.

❋

A YUGOSLAV STUDY GROUP

by **Thomas Healey**

For several years now I have been thinking about organizing a Yugoslavia Study Group, since there is no existing one in the US. The Society for Hungarian Philately seems like a natural fit for one given the historic connections between Hungary and Yugoslavia, which are well known in Hungarian philatelic circles. Even today, there are two recognized languages in Serbia (formerly part of Yugoslavia) - Serbian and Hungarian.

When I emailed Alan Bauer about this idea, he thought that there was great synergy between the Hungarian and the Yugoslavian collecting areas. As a result, I have volunteered to moderate such a group within the SHP. I am not sure what the format of this group is going to look like, but the mission of the group would be to explore Yugoslavian Philately, the connections with Hungarian Philately and the philately of the other countries that border the former Yugoslavia. Included within this ambit would be the predecessor countries of Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia & Herzegovina, the areas of the Austrian and Hungarian portions of the Habsburg Empire that became part of Yugoslavia, the SHS Kingdom and areas, such as the Banat, which were divided between Hungary, Romania, Croatia and Serbia. If you are interested, please contact me by email at healeyt@live.com. More information to follow.

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THE RUMINATIONS OF YOUR EDITOR

by **Robert Lauer**

The first quarter of 2020 marks a number of momentous anniversaries. First of all, the Society for Hungarian Philately celebrates 50 years since its founding in February 1970, celebrations for which will be held in Hartford, Connecticut this coming August. For me, this issue of **The News** marks the completion of five full years as the Editor of this august publication. Given how much fun this job is, it won't be the last five years either, unless your Editor falls victim to the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the reasons this job is so much fun is the number of members who are willing to put fingers to keyboard and write articles for this journal. I doubt very much whether there is another philatelic editor as lucky as I am in this regard. Keep those articles coming, folks!

This quarter of 2020 also marked the centenary of the restoration of the Kingdom of Hungary, albeit in a reduced form, after the interregnum of the People's Republic and the Soviet Republic within that period. On January 25-26, 1920 elections to a National Assembly were held in those areas of Hungary not occupied by Czechoslovak, Romanian or Serbian forces. Ninety-four percent of the seats were won by two parties: the Christian National Union Party and the National Smallholder's and Farmer's Party. Unable to agree on whether the King of the restored Kingdom should be a Habsburg or a "National" King, the National Assembly "kicked the can down the road" and elected Admiral Miklós Horthy as Regent on March 1, 1920.

The first quarter of 1920 also contained a veritable blizzard of issued stamps. The new "white" nationalist regime in Budapest issued three denominations of the red numeral postage due stamps on January 1st (the 40f, 50f and 200f) as well as the series of Harvester, Parliament and postage due stamps with the red Soviet era "MAGYAR TANÁCSKÖZTARSASÁG" overprint obliterated by a further overprint of a wheat sheaf with the year "1919" on January 27th. The postage due stamps of this issue are particularly interesting. The 2f, 3f, 10f, 20f, 40f and 50f underlying black numeral postage due stamps with the identifier "Magyar Posta" were prepared by the Republican government, but never issued. They were then overprinted "MAGYAR TANÁCSKÖZTARSASÁG" by the Soviet government, but never issued. The first time they were issued for use was with the 1919 Wheat Sheaf overprint. The underlying 2f, 3f, 20f, 40f and 50f were then issued without any of the overprints only days later on February 1st. The 3f stamps from both of these series are illustrated at left.

As always, before I sign off, I would like to thank the contributors to this issue of **The News**. Judy Kennett from Australia has contributed a delightful article on the 4f postal stationery card from the first issue of the Pengő perid; Csaba Kohalmi brings us a wonderfully detailed study of the situation prevailing 75 years ago in Hungary from a postal history perspective and Alan Soble has given us a most interesting piece on the use of German in Hungarian cancellers. An earlier version of this article was published in the December 2019 issue of the *Stamps of Hungary.s*

Speaking of Alan Soble, Alan has created two new websites, one for the on-line *Journal of Central and Eastern European Postal History, 1850-1950* he is establishing (https://asoble.wixite.com/the-jof-ph-1850-1950) and the other to consolidate in one easy to access place all of the issues of the *Sub-Carpathian Messenger* (https://asoble.wixite.com/zakar). If you have never read a copy of this latter publication, it is a treasure trove of information about the postal history of the Carpatho Ukraine while it was part of the Kingdom of Hungary and during the Visszatért Period.

✵

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I want to bring to everyone's attention the article "Exploring the APS Reference Collection" by Gary Wayne Loew in the February 2020 edition of The American Philatelist. On pages 170-171, he prominently features the donation to the Reference Library of our Director, Lyman Caswell. The article describes the outstanding research work by Lyman in 'Documenting forgeries with analytical techniques' for the Szeged overprints. On page 171, the article even includes a color page from Lyman's study comparing the genuine and forged for the 20 fillér Porto stamps.

I could not be more proud of this acknowledgement of Lyman's original study by the APS's Research Library! This is awesome and very well deserved!!!

Bob Morgan

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a follow-up to the article by Csaba Kohalmi in the April-June 2018 issue of **The News** (Vol.49, #2) about the indication of the month in Hungarian postal cancellers, I have found a new existing alternate postal abbreviation. Below is a scan of a cancellation from Miskolc with the abbreviation of September as 'sze.'.

Paul de Leeuw van Weenen

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Society for Czechoslovak Philately

If you collect the stamps or postal history of Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic or Slovakia, you may want to consider joining the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. Annual membership comes with 4 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, access to the society library, member's rates for purchasing books and expertization services. You can join on the society website – www.csphilately.org or contact

Tom Cossaboom
PO Box 4124,
Prescott, AZ 86302.

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THE 4F LOCAL POSTAL STATIONERY CARD, 1926 – 1930

by **Judy Kennett**

This postal stationery card was issued for local use in March 1926, at the same time as the Pengő replaced the devalued Korona at the end of the First Inflation Period. The Crown of St Stephen design for the indicium is the same as that used on contemporary regular adhesive postage stamps. The printer and the year of printing appears vertically along the right side of the card. An 8f card of the same design was also issued at the same time for domestic use. Other values of this design (a 10f card and a 16f card) followed as foreign postal rates changed.

Information about the various issues of this 4f local card come from Dr. Simády's catalogue of Hungarian postal stationery. The catalogue numbers used herein are his.

The 1926 Issue (Simády #66)

Figure 1

Figure 1 is an example of a card from the 1926 printing of this issue used locally in Budapest on 1 July 1926. Quick delivery was required, so the card was inscribed 'Sürgős' and an additional 16f was charged and paid with a 16f adhesive. Delivery was undertaken by the local telegraph office as indicated by the large double-ring cancel in the centre of the card. I suspect that delivery was made by some sort of a special messenger, perhaps a cyclist.

In my correspondence with David Williams about this card, he suggested that this 16f may have represented a cheaper rate for Express delivery within the Budapest city limits. While such a reduced charge was in effect in earlier years; neither of us was aware that such a reduced rate was still applicable in 1926. The fact that no postage due was charged supports David's theory on this point.

Below are two other examples from the 1927 printing of this card: ***Figure 2*** shows a card uprated with 16f for use to Sweden (foreign rate applicable); and ***Figure 3*** illustrates a card posted in Budapest on 25 January 1928 to Austria, which is uprated with 12f (3 x 4f) for the rate to a Convention country.

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4 shows a card from the 1929 printing of this card, posted in Budapest on 5 August 1929 to Nagymező, uprated with 4f for the domestic use rate within Hungary.

Figure 4

The 1929 Issue (Simády #72)

In December 1929, the 4f card was re-issued with three additional lines of text drawing the attention of users to the fact that this denomination was intended for local use. Under the main heading are the words 'a helyi forgalom számára' and at the foot of the card are two lines of text about other denominations for other rates. ***Figure 5*** shows a 4f card from the 1929 printing of this issue, uprated with 16f for use to Finland, a non-Convention foreign country. The date line in the cancel isn't readable, but the message is headed 7 December 1930.

Figure 5

The Last Issue – The 4f Card Surcharged (Simády #78)

From 15 November 1930, cards from both earlier issues (Simády #66 and #72) were surcharged with a 2f printed in red beside the existing indicium to meet the new 6f local rate.

1931 MÁJ 14
Feladó neve és lakása Zsámboki Miklós
Budapest II. Csopaki u. 7. HUNGRIA
LEVELEZŐ-LAP
Sr.
Ladislao Z S Á M B O K I
M A D R I D
Espana/Spanyol-ország/ Martin de los Heros 44.
Távolsági vagy külfölddel való forgalomban a feltüntetett értéket a mindenkori díjszabásnak megfelelően postabélyeggel ki kell egészíteni.

Figure 6

Figure 6 shows a 4f card from the 1929 issue surcharged (the 2f surcharge is faintly visible to the left of the indicium), uprated with 14f for use to Spain and cancelled on 14 May 1931. What I like about the extra franking is the use of two of the 1930 surcharges on current adhesives, 2f on 3f orange and 10f on 16f blackish lilac. ***Figure 7*** shows a surcharged card uprated with a 10f surcharged adhesive for use to Italy on 2 May 1931. The total meets the then current rate of 16f for mail to a Convention Country.

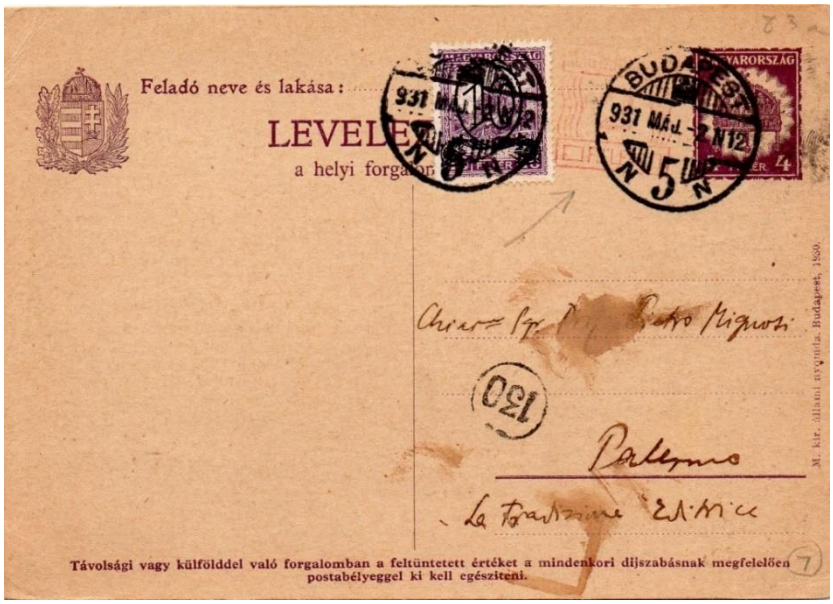

Feladó neve és lakása:
931 Máj
Távolsági vagy külfölddel való forgalomban a feltüntetett értéket a mindenkori díjszabásnak megfelelően postabélyeggel ki kell egészíteni.

Figure 7

Figure 8

Figure 8 shows a surcharged card uprated with 16f for use to Austria on 27 November 1932. This franking of 22f is 6f more than the rate required for Austria, a Convention Country. Either the sender did not realize that the indicia and surcharge were valid for international use (these cards were valid to 31 December 1936) or he/she didn't realize that the surcharge added 2f to the indicium and thought that mail to Austria was subject to the full foreign postcard rate of 20f. Another example of over-franking by a confused user of the postal system.

Reference

Simády, Béla "A magyar díjjegyes postai nyomtatványok katalógusa 1867-1982", (Budapest, 1983).

❋

WANTED

Postage due items from the Hungarian hyperinflation of 1945-1946 for an extensive study of the subject I am undertaking. I would like to get scans of any material owned by other members of the SHP in order to develop statistics on the subject and would be willing to purchase certain items. All contributions used in future articles will be attributed. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Please contact Florent Tricot at inflahungtricot@gmail.com.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE POSTAL SERVICE IN HUNGARY DURING MARCH 1945

by **Csaba L. Kohalmi**

The map in ***Figure 1*** below illustrates the approximate front lines between the Red Army and the Wehrmacht during March 1945. To the east, the Red Army liquidated the last pocket of resistance in Buda Castle on 13 February 1945. (During the night of 11-12 February, the German and Hungarian defenders made a desperate and totally unsuccessful attempt to break out of the Soviet siege ring. The total 'liberation' of Budapest occurred on the next day when the remaining defenders surrendered after the 50-day siege.)

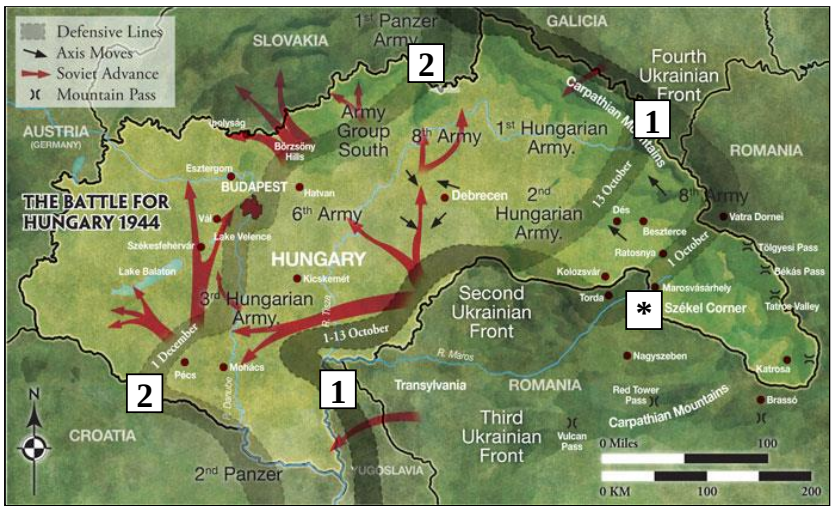
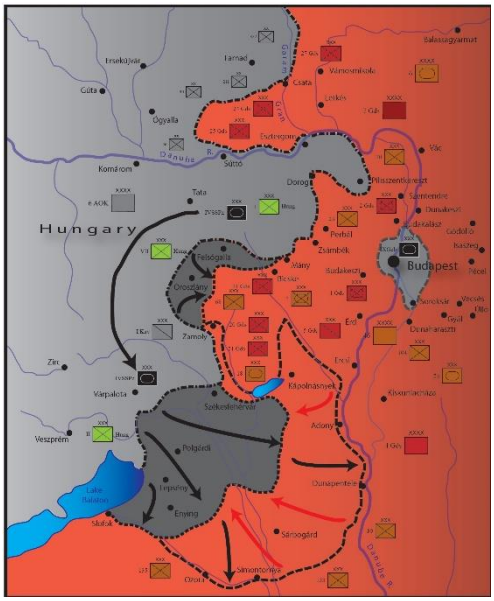
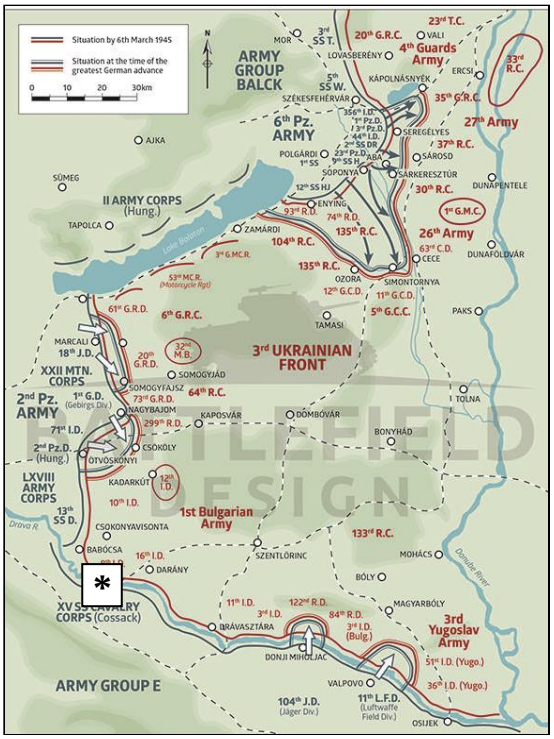


Figure 1. *The map shows the front lines in Hungary in early October 1944 (*1-1*) at the time of Regent Horthy's ill-fated attempt at surrender (15 October 1944). The second indication of the front line (*2-2*) is from early December. This second front line changed very little in the following three months since the Soviets were tied down by the siege of Budapest while the Germans made unsuccessful attempts to lift the siege.*

To the west of the front line, the German Wehrmacht made desperate attempts to relieve the siege of Budapest during January 1945. See ***Figure 2*** for *Operation Konrad* that was conducted between 12-27 January. The Germans succeeded in pushing back the Red Army between Lake Balaton and Lake Velence, but were repulsed from reaching the Danube River to the south of Budapest. While these attempts were unsuccessful, they help to illustrate the situation: the front lines between the fighting forces did not move significantly.


Hungary
Budapest
Komárom
Tata
Dorog
Pilisszentkereszt
Pilisszentlászló
Dunakeszi
Gödöllő
Kerepes
Pécel
Rákospalota
Zsámbék
Máriabesnyő
Budakeszi
Érd
Százhalombatta
Ercsi
Adony
Sárosd
Sárbogárd
Dunapentele
Polgárdi
Lake Balaton
Enying
Veszprém
Várpalota
Zirc
Ajka
Csata
Enese
Győr
Ács
Ászár
Ogyalla
Iza
Tarnad
Balassagyarmat
Vámosmikola
Ipolyság
Inselkövár
Gúta
Dunaharaszti
Kiskunlacháza
Kápolnásnyék
Székesfehérvár
Simontornya
Tolna
Paks
Dunaújváros
Adony
Ercsi
Százhalombatta
Dunaharaszti
Kiskunlacháza



Following the capitulation of Budapest, there was a brief lull in the fighting as the Red Army regrouped. ***Figure 3*** on the left shows the military situation on March 6th, little changed from the end of January. During this time, a large part of western Hungary (Dunántúl=Transdanubia) was spared from active fighting. But, by the second half of March, the situation changed as the Red Army went on the offensive (see the red arrows protruding from the early December front line in *Figure 1*). Still, the Hungarian Royal Post operated as best it could in this area under nominal Hungarian control. At the same time, in the eastern areas, the same postal organization tried desperately to re-organize and restart its services.

Figure 3. *A detailed map of southeastern Transdanubia showing the front lines on 6 March 1944.*

Backtracking a bit, I would like to illustrate how the war affected mail service earlier in 1944. By early October 1944, all of Northern Transylvania was captured by the Red Army. The cover shown in ***Figure 4*** was sent from Budapest to Marosvásárhely (see * in ***Figure 1***), but was returned to the sender because postal service was suspended due to the fighting.

Figure 4. *Registered letter mailed from Budapest 62 on 19 September 1944. Endorsed POSTAFORGALOM SZÜNETEL VISSZA A FELADÓNAK! / Postal service suspended Return to sender!*

Figure 5. *A correctly franked registered postcard mailed from Rimaszécs (currently Rimavká Seč, Slovakia) to Pécs on 23 November 1944. The Hungarian-inhabited village is north of the city of Ózd on the Slovak side of the current border. In 1944, it was part of the territory that reverted to Hungary in 1938. The card was endorsed Vissza! Forgalom szünetel = Return! Service suspended. On that date, the front lines had to have been very close to the village. Interestingly, the card was reposted after the war ended and arrived at its destination in Pécs seven months later on 26 August 1945. (!)*

The next postal examples bring this article back to its original theme: Hungarian postal service in March 1945. The cover in ***Figure 6*** was mailed from Sopron (using a Magyar Kir. Posta auxiliary canceller) in March (posting date is illegible) to Vág (arrival date: 14 March 1945). In the timeline of events, this is my latest example of mail posted and delivered within Hungary's borders. The other covers in ***Figures 7, 8,*** *and* ***10*** were sent to addresses in Germany (aka *Anschluss*-ed Austria). It seems that transportation in the westerly direction was readily available for civilian mail. Personnel and materiel movement was more or less unidirectional at the time. The map in ***Figure 9*** shows the location of the various places of origin for the mail.

Also, at this time, there were close to two million Hungarians in parts of the German Reich, including Austria. Of this number, half were civilian refugees/displaced persons; the other half were military personnel retreating from the advancing Soviets. Of course, the numbers include countless forced laborers in German factories plus the thousands of Jews force-marched from the Budapest ghetto and handed over to German authorities at the border for work in digging trenches and building fortifications. It's hard to imagine if any of these 'expatriates' had the luxury of using the postal service for communication. As the war was nearing its end, the Red Cross provided the only opportunity for personal communication. Others utilized returning soldiers to carry correspondence for loved ones.

Figure 6. *Magyar Kir. Posta auxiliary canceller used in Sopron on a registered letter mailed to a German lieutenant stationed in Vág. The arrival cds on the reverse side in 14 March 1944.*

Figure 7. *Registered letter mailed from Rajka on 20 March 1945 to Dedelsdorf über Wittingen in Germany. Note the hand-drawn registry label.*

Figure 8. *Registered postal card mailed from Szenc (now Senec, Slovakia) on 20 March 1945 to the DDSG Agency in Ybbs, Germany (occupied Austria).*

Hungary's river shipping assets had sailed upriver into Austria at the end of December 1944. The riverboats and barges transported factory machinery and other valuable inventory to keep them from falling into the hands of the Russians. The sender of this card was attempting to communicate with a friend or relative via the agency. Within two weeks of this card being mailed, the Red Army captured the area. Officially, Pozsony/Bratislava was 'liberated' on 4 April 1945, the same date that was also used as the date of the liberation of Hungary although this has been a subject of historical discussion. Szenc was in the area that was returned to Hungary in 1938 and is now located in Slovakia.

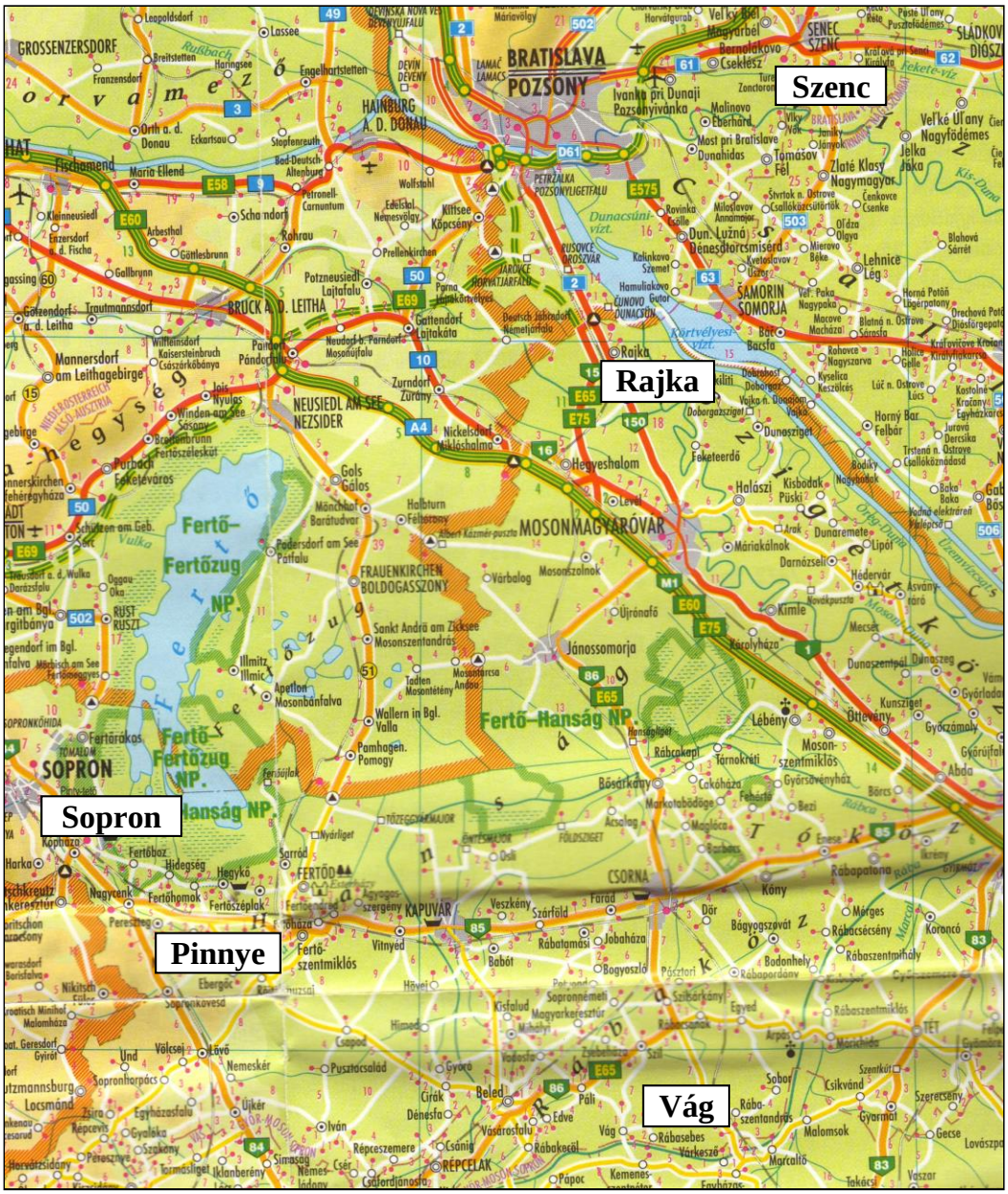


Figure 9. *Map of the northwestern corner of Transdanubia.*

My last example of mail handled by the Hungarian post is dated 21 March 1945. The registered postal card was mailed at the postal agency of Pinnye, a small village close to Sopron. The card was sent to a Hungarian doctor in Halle, Germany, who was attached to a Hungarian army division. My best guess in deciphering the hard-to-read handwriting is *Ung(arische) Hüd (?) Abteilung*. The writer was hoping to meet up with him in Spittal (she wrote down an exact address) and expressed hope for a safe journey for both of them.

Figure 11 shows a map of Hungary marked with the locations behind the front lines from which examples of mail (see ***Figures 12*** through ***14***) originated in a relatively short amount of time after the fighting abated.

Figure 10. *Registered postal card send on 21 March 1945 to Halle, Germany from the postal agency of Pinnye. Note the hand-drawn registry label and the censor stamp from March 23rd.*

HUNGARY
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Rozsnyó
UKRAINE
AUSTRIA
SLOVENIA
CROATIA
SERBIA
ROMANIA
Bratislava
Sopron
Győr
Mosonmagyaróvár
Komárom
Esztergom
Tatabánya
BUDAPEST
Miskolc
Eger
Nyíregyháza
Debrecen
Hajdúszoboszló
Szombathely
Székesfehérvár
Veszprém
Keszthely
Zalaegerszeg
Siófok
Kecskemét
Szolnok
Békéscsaba
Gyula
Szeged
Kaposvár
Nagykanizsa
Pécs
Baja
Mohács
Szekszárd
Hódmezővásárhely
Orosháza
Szentes
Csongrád
Kiskunfélegyháza
Dunaújváros
Ajka
Körmend
Celldömölk
Pápa
Oroszlány
Tata
Gödöllő
Hatvan
Gyöngyös
Salgótarján
Balassagyarmat
Ózd
Edelény
Kazincbarcika
Sajószentpéter
Sárospatak
Kisvárda
Tiszavasvári
Mátészalka
Nyírbátor
Hajdúnánás
Hajdúböszörmény
Hajdúhadház
Balmazújváros
Püspökladány
Berettyóújfalu
Karcag
Törökszentmiklós
Mezőtúr
Nagykőrös
Cegléd
Abony
Albertirsa
Dabas
Gyömrő
Vecsés
Monor
Dunaharaszti
Érd
Százhalombatta
Budaörs
Budakeszi
Dunakeszi
Szigetszentmiklós
Szentendre
Vác
Aszód
Balassagyarmat
Lőrinci
Mezőkövesd
Tiszaújváros
Tiszafüred
Heves
Jászapáti
Jászberény
Szajol
Tiszakécske
Tiszaföldvár
Gyomaendrőd
Szeghalom
Mezőberény
Csorvás
Kunszentmárton
Csongrád
Szentes
Békés
Sarkad
Gyula
Orosháza
Mezőhegyes
Makó
Hódmezővásárhely
Szeged
Kiskunmajsa
Kiskőrös
Kiskunhalas
Jánoshalma
Kalocsa
Paks
Dunapataj
Solt
Sárbogárd
Dunaföldvár
Simontornya
Tolna
Dombóvár
Szekszárd
Bonyhád
Komló
Szigetvár
Barcs
Siklós
Drávaszabolcs
Pécsvárad
Szentlőrinc
Mohács
Baja
Bácsalmás
Subotica
Timişoara
Mosonmagyaróvár
Neusiedler See
Kapuvár
Csorna
Sárvár
Vasvár
Körmend
Szombathely
Celldömölk
Pápa
Ajka
Veszprém
Balatonfüred
Tapolca
Zalaegerszeg
Keszthely
Nagykanizsa
Marcali
Kaposvár
Nagyatád
Barcs
Siklós
Drávaszabolcs
Pécsvárad
Szentlőrinc
Mohács
Baja
Bácsalmás
Subotica
Timişoara
Siófok
Balaton
Dunaújváros
Sárbogárd
Dunaföldvár
Simontornya
Tolna
Dombóvár
Szekszárd
Bonyhád
Komló
Szigetvár
Barcs
Siklós
Drávaszabolcs
Pécsvárad
Szentlőrinc
Mohács
Baja
Bácsalmás
Subotica
Timişoara
Kiskunhalas
Jánoshalma
Kalocsa
Paks
Dunapataj
Solt
Kiskunmajsa
Kiskőrös
Kiskunfélegyháza
Kecskemét
Lajosmizse
Dabas
Gyömrő
Vecsés
Monor
Dunaharaszti
Érd
Százhalombatta
Budaörs
Budakeszi
Dunakeszi
Szigetszentmiklós
Szentendre
Vác
Aszód
Balassagyarmat
Lőrinci
Mezőkövesd
Tiszaújváros
Tiszafüred
Heves
Jászapáti
Jászberény
Szajol
Tiszakécske
Tiszaföldvár
Gyomaendrőd
Szeghalom
Mezőberény
Csorvás
Kunszentmárton
Csongrád
Szentes
Békés
Sarkad
Gyula
Orosháza
Mezőhegyes
Makó
Hódmezővásárhely
Szeged

Figure 12. *Postcard sent from Kiskunhalas on 6 January 1945 to Kerekegyháza. 20f postage paid in cash. The 1943 rate for a postcard was 18f. ELLENŐRIZE censor stamp. For location, see* **1** *on the map in* ***Figure 11***.

Figure 13. *Letter sent from Szeged on 7 February 1945 to Gyula via the courier service organized by the Government Construction Office of Gyula. Franked with 30f in accordance with the 1943 postal tariff for a domestic letter. See* **2** *for location on the map in Figure 11.*

The postal card illustrated in ***Figure 14*** is especially interesting. *De facto*, it is an early example of international mail from the period before formal regulations were in place to prohibit such. Hungary formally surrendered to the Soviet Union on 25 January 1945 and repudiated all territorial acquisitions made after 1937. As a result, Rozsnyó/Rožňava (acquired in 1938) was no longer a part of Hungary but belonged to Czechoslovakia.

Figure 14. *Postal card mailed from Miskolc on 27 February 1945 to Rozsnyó. Note the manuscript cancellation and the CENZURA MISKOLCZ censor stamp that dates back to the post-World War I era. (Originally, the word KATONAI = military was in the blank space but was excised from the canceller.) The 18f indicium was the correct 1943 rate for a domestic postcard. See* **3** *for location on the map in* ***Figure 11****.*

Figure 15. *Letter from Pestszentlőrinc to Cincinnati sent on 2 March 1945 arriving on 18 June 1945.*

The cover in ***Figure 15*** is also an example of an improbable foreign letter from March 1945. It was sent from Pestszentlőrinc on 2 March 1945 and addressed to Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. It was franked with 1,40P postage at a rate that doesn't correspond to the 1943 tariff schedule. Moreover, on that date, new, increased postal tariffs were promulgated for Budapest proper as well as for letters sent to the neighboring area of Greater Budapest. However, this schedule did not include a rate for foreign mail. So, the reason for the 1,40P franking is unknown. (At that time,

Pestszentlőrinc was outside the city limits, so the new tariffs were not even applicable since the rates focused on mail between Budapest proper and Greater Budapest only.) The letter was sent to the United States via Romania as attested by two Romania censor marks (*Cenzurat Turda* on the front and *CENZURAT 7* on the reverse side). The envelope also has a Soviet censor stamp on the reverse side, *ДОЕННАЯ ЧЕНЗУРА СССР 6/Р*. The Soviet military is known to have censored outgoing mail from Romania. Also, intriguing are the double strikes of the *New York, N.Y. Reg'y Div.* cancels (from 18 June 1945). Was this originally intended to be a registered letter (50f+70f=1,20P according to the 1943 tariffs), and the registry label had fallen off? At any rate, by the time the letter arrived in Cincinnati, it was no longer treated as registered mail. In March 1945, the letter obviously could not have travelled westward to get out of Hungary. Somehow it was routed to Romania (perhaps using the Red Army fieldpost service) through the ingenuity of the Hungarian Post!

Seventeen days after the cessation of fighting in Buda, the Hungarian Post organized the mail service in and around Budapest. The so-called Budapest tariffs went into effect on 2 March 1945. The announcement of the new rates also included a list of functioning post offices (4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 62, 72, 82) that were spread around the Pest side (see ***Figure 16***). No offices were open in Buda, as yet. The table below shows an abbreviated comparison of postal rates:

	July 1, 1943 last 'wartime' tariff	**March 2, 1945 'Budapest' tariff**	**May 1, 1945 1st rate period tariff**
Local postcard	12f	30f	40f
Distance postcard	18f	40f	60f
Local letter	20f	40f	50f
Distance letter	30f	60f	1P
Registration	70f	1P	2P

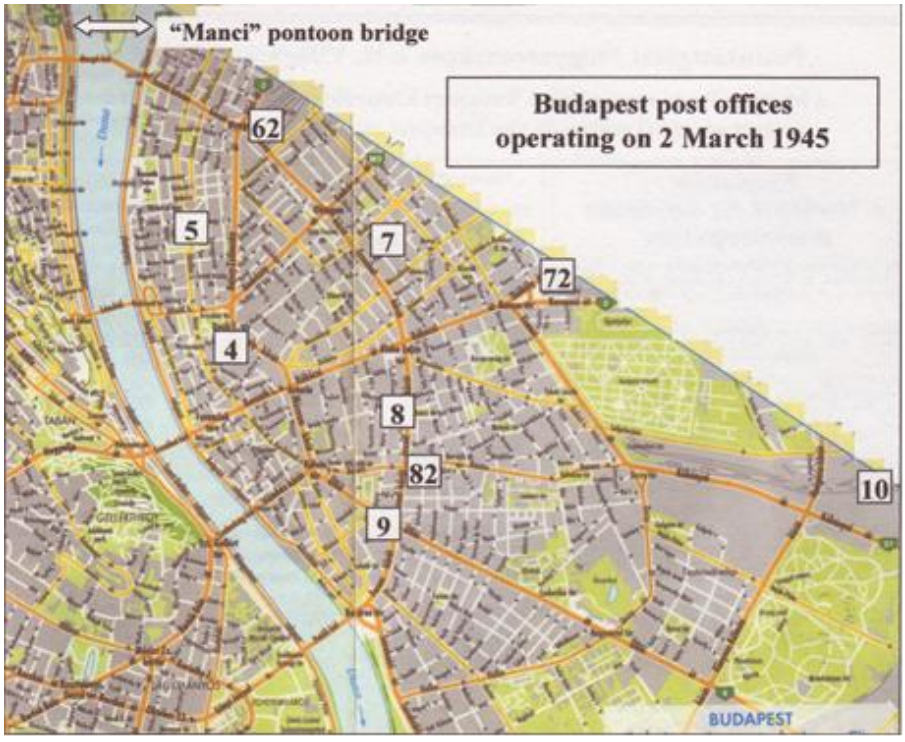


Figure 16.

The post's restructuring of services entailed extreme hardships. Since the vast majority of the buildings in Budapest were damaged or destroyed, mail could not be delivered based on conventional addresses. Local postmen did their best to find people, many of whom had to relocate to livable dwellings. One also needs to visualize that intense fighting was a mere 20-30 kilometers to the west of capital. Still, the general population was relieved to have survived the siege; and, despite the physical hardships, undertook the task of reconstruction eagerly as demonstrated by the text on multiple pieces of mail that I have encountered. Businessmen sent countless cards to former clients offering their services and to suppliers asking for materiel.

In a conclusion to the events of March 1945, I will next illustrate a few examples of mail bearing the new 'Budapest' tariffs.

Figure 17. *Letter sent from Újpest on 10 March 1945 to the Red Cross in Budapest franked according to the 1943 tariff at 30f for a domestic letter. The Budapest tariff required 60f franking, so the letter was assessed penalty postage due of 2 x 30f = 60f on 13 March 1945 (the month in the cancel on the postage dues stamps was set to FEB in error). The recipient did not accept the letter ('nem fogadta el' in pencil).*

Figure 18. *Map showing the relative locations of the three towns.*

The card in *Figure 19* tells another wartime story. The sender had fled from Barcs in southern Hungary on Dráva River bordering Jugoslavia because of the fighting (see ***** in *Figure 3*) to Istvándi. In order to mail the postal card, she had to travel to Szigetvár since it was the nearest town with postal service to Budapest. The card had an 18f indicium that was the correct rate for a domestic postcard under the 1943 tariffs. Upon receipt in Budapest, it was assessed penalty postage due of 2 x 22f = 44f under the new Budapest tariff system. Since this amount may have

been hard to collect in small change, the postal clerk processing the card overwrote the '44f' and rounded up the postage due to 50f.

Figure 19. *Postal card sent from Szigetvár on 17 April 1945 to Budapest. Note the small 'Cenzurálva = censored' marking near the indicium.*

Figure 20. *Postcard sent from Budapest 72 on 20 April 1945 to Pestszentlőrinc correctly franked with 40f according to the new Budapest tariff for a domestic postcard.*

While the last two examples stretch the time period of this article into April, they do illustrate how the Hungarian Post was able to improve its services incrementally under pretty dire circumstances. As the fighting in the country ended, the increased Budapest tariff rates started to spread throughout the countryside. Then, on 1 May 1945, the first rate period under what became known as the 1945-1946 hyperinflation came into effect uniformly throughout the country. It was also now officially impossible to mail letters to foreign destinations, making the items in *Figures 14* and *15* even more interesting from a postal historical perspective.

Bob Morgan's book, **The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946** (published by the Collectors Club of Chicago, 2003) gives the starting dates for accepting mail to various foreign countries in Table 29 on page 161.

Table 29.

Re-Starting Dates of Mail Service to Foreign Destinations
(in chronological order)

1945	Country	Postcards, Letters	2) Regist'd	Parcel Post	Value-Letter	Value-Parcel	Express	Printed-Matter	Samples	Notes
6 Aug.	Yugoslavia	8/6/45	9/1/45	6/14/46	6/14/46			9/1/45	9/1/45	The (flap) of letters had to be left open for inspection. Rates for Printed Matter and Samples per 50g = 4 P.
8 Oct.	Czechoslovakia	10/8/45	10/8/45	10/8/45	10/8/45			10/8/45	10/8/45	
17 Nov.	Romania	11/17/45	11/26/45	6/14/46	6/14/46					Return Receipt service was allowed from 11/26/45
20 Nov.	Austria *	11/20/45								* Pause in Service from 1 Dec,1945 until Jan.12, 1946.
26 Nov.	U.S.A. 1)	11/26/45	1/1/46	6/14/46						
26 Nov.	Great Britain 1)	11/26/45	1/1/46							
26 Nov.	France 1)	11/26/45	1/1/46	6/14/46	6/14/46					
26 Nov.	Poland 1)	11/26/45	1/1/46	6/14/46						
26 Nov.	Ireland 1)	11/26/45								
22 Dec.	G.B. & Colonies: Ireland, Canada, Northern Ireland Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, British India,	12/22/45	12/22/45	6/14/46						Return Receipt Service was allowed from 12/22/45
24 Dec.	Soviet Union	12/24/45	12/24/45					12/24/45	12/24/45	Business Letter' was allowed from 12/24/45
1946 1 Jan.	Bulgaria	1/1/46	1/1/46	6/14/46	6/1/46	6/1/46				Return Receipt service was allowed from 1/1/46.
12 Jan.	Austria **	1/12/46	12/1/46	6/14/46						* see note on bottom
15 Feb.	Sweden	2/15/46	2/15/46	4/15/46	6/14/46		4/15/46			Return Receipt from 2/15/46.
29 Apr.	Palestine	4/29/46								
01-May	Air Mail see	section								See page 105.
01-May	Switzerland	5/1/46	5/1/46	6/14/46	6/14/46		5/1/46	5/1/46	5/1/46	Small Parcel 5/1/46, Business Letter , Return Receipt service was allowed from 5/1/46.
01-Jun	Turkey	6/1/46	6/1/46	6/14/46	6/1/46	6/1/46		6/1/46	6/1/46	Small Parcel, Return Receipt, Business Papers from 6/1/46
11-Jul	Belgium	7/11/46	7/11/46	6/14/46	6/14/46					Return Receipt service from 7/11/46
11-Jul	Netherland, Norway	7/11/46	7/11/46	6/14/46						Return Receipt service from 7/11/46

14 June, '46 **Albania, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Italy, Chile and Egypt were added to countries re-opened for mail service.** Reference: Bélyegvilág, May, 2003. Article by Dr. László Molnár.
20 Nov. 45. * Postcards, letters up to 1kg, registered letters up to 500g, return receipt were allowed into all military zones. Not allowed: Express, dutiable items.
12 Jan. 46. ** Postcards, letters up to 20g, registered service were allowed into all military zones.
1) 139.054/A.4. The regulation reference to: "All types of mail" did not specify the types.
2) 134.000?A.4. Closing regulation clause. Registration fee set: double the rate of a 20g foreign letter.

❋

MIXING GERMAN AND HUNGARIAN IN CANCELLERS

by **Alan Soble**

As has been recently examined,[1] in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the German "OKT" nearly entirely replaced the Latin "OCT" as the Hungarian canceller abbreviation in those cases in which numerals (the Roman "X" or the Arabic "10") were not used. In this article, I want to take a look at the use of German in Hungarian cancellers from yet another perspective. I have not yet studied (especially chronologically) Austria's using both "OKT" and "OCT".[2] My impression is that

occurrences of "OCT" outnumber those of "OKT" but that all month abbreviations were eliminated quickly in favor of numerals (many decades before Hungary did so).

Figure 1 (left) shows the mixed-language cancel which provoked this investigation. Visible in this cancel is the Hungarian town/place identifier "Budapest/Lipótváros." Although the date line is truncated, the significant "74 DEZ" remains. This abbreviation is not the standard Hungarian abbreviation "DEC" but Germanic. ***Figure 1*** (right) is another case of a Hungarian town name, "Kukló" (Kuklov, near the joint border of Moravia-Austria-Slovakia), mixed with the Germanic "DEZ." The cancel has no year date but a Franz Josef stamp type did not exist earlier than mid-1871. The cancel type in ***Figure 1*** (right) is shown in **Monograph** II, 288 (AJ 1d). The particular image displayed there is "ALTKÉR/DEZ.2.", also a mixed cancel, because "Altkér" with an acute accent is the Magyarification of the German town name "Altker." The cancel in ***Figure 1*** (right) may have been struck by a "surviving" canceller from the Austrian post; if so, "DEZ" is explicable. However, the same cannot be said for "DEZ" in ***Figure 1*** (left); the canceller is a new indigenous Hungarian postal device.

Figure 1. *Left: 3kr green 1871 Franz Josef cancelled "[18]74 DEZ." Right: 5kr red 1871 Franz Josef cancelled "DEZ 8." The town names are Magyar while the month abbreviations are Germanic.*

Figure 2. *A 2kr yellow (from Cs. Kohalmi) and a 5kr red 1871 Franz Josef, both cancelled "[18]73 DEC." The town names and abbreviations are consistently Magyar. These are type "G" cancels, with small grilles top and bottom (Hungarian* **Monograph** *VI, 185).*

The interesting feature of the ***Figure 1*** cancels is the discrepancy between the language of the town name and the language of the month. In ***Figure 1*** (left) the year in which the Germanic "DEZ" was used is 1874, fully seven years after 1867, when the postal administrations of Austria and

Hungary went their separate ways. ***Figure 2*** shows two 1873 cancels which are Magyar throughout.

We have seen elsewhere the pattern in which a town name is spelled in one language while the month abbreviation is in a different language.[3] Consider the use of Hungarian surviving cancellers in Romania after WWI. The town name in the ***Figure 3*** cancels is the Romanian "Lugoj," changed from the Hungarian "Lugos," while the month abbreviation, "MÁR," is Magyar.[4] Romanian postal personnel corrected the town name; the date line was reversed into the Romanian day/month/year format; the Crown of St. Stephen is now missing. But no one completed the de-Magyarification of the canceller by chiseling away the acute accent in "MÁR."

Figure 3*. Romanian King Carol II stamps cancelled "11.MÁR.935 7N" by a 1L K-style Kingdom of Hungary survivor. The town name and date format are Romanian. The month abbreviation is Magyar; also, the "N" is probably the Hungarian time indicator "nappal" (during the day).*

Figure 4*. 1850 Austrian stamps, 6kr brown (left) and 9kr blue (right), cancelled "Condino" (Trentino, Italy; German "Kunden") on 22. MÆR and "Temesvár" (Hungarian Banat; Romanian "Timișoara") on 19. MÆR. This cancel type is shown in* **Monograph** *II, 306 (E 1) and Mueller,* **Handbook**, *P19 (RS-R).*

Figure 4 (left) shows another mixture, the Italian town name "Condino" and a Germanic month abbreviation "MÆR" on a 6kr 1850 Austrian stamp. Here the German abbreviation for March (März) is MÄR, in which the umlauted vowel "Ä" has been replaced by "AE" to yield "MAER" in its ligatured form "MÆR." Two illustrations of the ligature "Æ" are in Mueller's **Handbook**. On *P16* is an example of the month abbreviation "MÆR" in a "Kostjan" cancel (RfB-R); on *P15* Moravia is spelled "MÆHREN" instead of "Mähren" in an "Aussee" (Úsov) cancel (RzuO-f). I found an image of "MÆR" in **Monograph** II, 306, in the cancel (E 10) "NEU BECSE/30/MÆR."

This cancel is mixed in yet a second way: "Neu" is German, "Becse" is Magyar. (In English, "Röntgen" is often spelled "Roentgen" and "Müller" becomes "Mueller," eliminating the non-English umlaut by inserting an "E," although the ligature is used only on special occasions.)

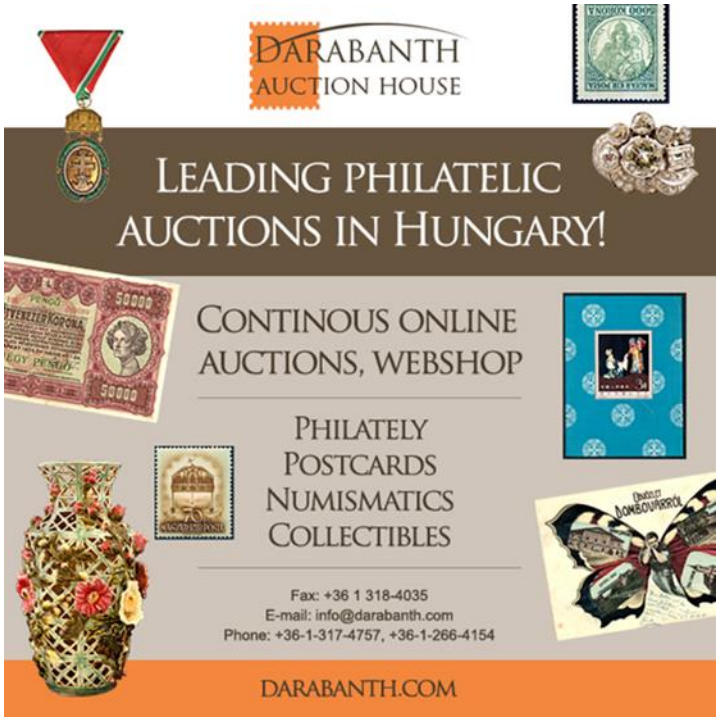
An unanticipated fruit of this study is that we can now solve the puzzle raised in my 2018 article.[5] The cancel on the 9kr 1850 Austrian stamp in ***Figure 4*** (right) exhibits a Magyar language name, "Temesvár," mixed with a typographically altered Germanic month abbreviation. The abbreviation is not as it first appears; it is not the alarming monster "MA.R." The Germanic umlaut "Ä" in "MÄR" is represented typographically with a ligature. One letter (or semi-letter) in the cancel's month abbreviation is *underinked*, the "E" in "Æ." It can be seen if you look carefully.

One more example is worth examining. Although I have mentioned only the ligature "Æ" of "AE" as it appears in "März" and "Mähren," other ligatures in cancels can of course be found. For example (***Figure 5***), two Germanic cancels on early Austrian stamps used in Bohemia exhibit the ligature "Œ" in the abbreviation "BŒM." While a later cancel (but still Austrian, a survivor) from the same town, on a new Czechoslovakia stamp, exhibits the umlaut.[6]

Figure 5. *"Böhmisch Leipa" cancels, two with the "Œ" ligature (9 kr blue Austria 1850 issue; 5 kr red Austria 1860 issue) and one with an umlaut (60h orange Czechoslovakia Hradčany, 1919). Now "Česká Lípa."*

NOTES

1. Csaba Kohalmi, "Indication of the Month in Hungarian Postal Cancellers," **The News of Hungarian Philately** 49:2 (April–June, 2018), 20–25; Soble, "Notes on Hungarian Postal Orthography," **The News of Hungarian Philately** 49:3 (July–Sept., 2018), 21–27.
2. For both, see Mueller, **Handbook of Austria and Lombardy-Venetian Cancellations**, images on *P14* (RDo-R).
3. Linguistically disparate cancels are "ideologically incongruous." See my "Obliterations and Their Absence: The Prolonged Fate of Post-WWI Hungarian Postmarks (Part 1)," **The News of Hungarian Philately** 40:1 (Jan.–March, 2009), 21; **Stamps of Hungary**, No. 178 (Sept. 2009), 15.
4. On Hungarian surviving cancellers used in Lugoj's main post office into the 1950s, see my "Persistent Survivors in Lugos/Lugoj," **The News of Hungarian Philately** 45:4 (Oct.–Dec., 2014), 10–19; "Wounded but Persistent Magyar Survivors in Lugoj," *Philatelica* (2018/2), 9-16; "Two Ways 'K' Cancellers Refuse to Go Gentle into That Good Night," **The News of Hungarian Philately** 50:1 (Jan.–March, 2019), 18–28.
5. *Figure 12* in "Notes on Hungarian Postal Orthography," 25.
6. Csaba Kohalmi helped enormously in this study. He recognized that I had stumbled across something interesting (***Figure 1****, left*), encouraged me to pursue the matter, and sent images of cancels from his collections.



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A cover franked with two 80f stamps from the Second Debreczen Issue cancelled January 7, 1920 *(from the collection of Csaba L. Kohalmi).*

A local postcard franked with the 75f from the Second Debreczen Issue and a 20f from the First Debreczen Issue cancelled either January 1, 1920 or January 2, 1920. *(from the collection of Paul de Leeuw van Weenen).*